

Border 2012

U.S. – Mexico Environmental Program

Border-Wide Achievements and Successes 2005





Successes and Achievements 2005

Goal 1: Reduce Water Contamination

Developed an integrated water quality baseline system

- Includes about 200,000 data points
- Creates a standardized data repository
- Achieves joint agreement on 12 common data elements
- Establishes a watershed approach for joint indicators

Created an infrastructure project prioritization system

- Clearly identifies highest priority projects which support public protection of public health and water quality
- Improves efficiency of project selection & development
- The 2005 prioritization process identified 135 projects at an estimated total construction cost of \$894 million
- In 2005, 26 new projects received funding benefiting 475,000 people





2005

Goal 2: Reduce Air Pollution

Fulfilled the first interim air quality objective

- 2005 publication of the borderwide emissions inventory baseline report
- Identification through the APF prioritization process of four alternative scenarios for reducing emissions

Identified 4 air quality priority needs through a stakeholder-driven process and advanced progress in those areas:

- Implemented targeted efforts to address truck emissions at border crossings
- Signed Letter of Intent between EPA and SEMARNAT in support of diesel truck emission reductions in the border region
- Conducted cost-benefit analysis training to support reduction of sulfur in fuels
- Established foundation for building capacity to catalyze incentive-based emission reduction efforts in the border region
 - Nov 2005 APF *ad hoc* subgroup discussion with the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee



2005

Goal 3: Reduce Land Contamination

Over 2.1 million scrap tires have been cleaned up on the Border

- resulting in fewer mosquito-borne diseases and reduced risk of tire pile fires

Stabilization of Metales y Derivados contaminated site in Tijuana

- including removal of 2,000 tons of hazardous waste and contaminated soil.

Common data standards for tracking of hazardous waste

- SEMARNAT and EPA are making progress, through a Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) initiative, in developing common data standards for enhanced tracking of hazardous waste exports/imports between the U.S. and Mexico (and Canada)



Successes and Achievements 2005

Goal 4: Environmental Health

- Developed border-wide Environmental Public Health Indicator (EPHI) teams
 - to evaluate current projects and recommend potential areas for indicators
- Produced inventories of border air and water databases for Environmental Health
- *Request for Proposals* to validate Environmental Public Health Indicators
 - Released through the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Funded project to determine if *Promotora* training can lead to public health improvements
 - In cooperation with the Health Resources and Services Administration - HHS

Successes and Achievements

2005



Goal 5: Reduce Exposure to Chemicals due to Accidental Chemical Releases and/or

U.S.–Mexico Inland Joint Contingency Plan Revised

The 1999 U.S.–Mexico Inland Joint Contingency Plan is being revised. The bi-national notification system was revised, and successful notification drills were conducted. The U.S. National Response Center, EPA and PROFEPA in partnership with CENACOM, participated in the notification revisions.

Protocol with U.S. Customs and Border Protection - DHS Initiated

Initiated a protocol with U.S. Customs and Border Protection - DHS, to expedite cross-border emergency responses for incidents along the U.S.–Mexico border. Mexico's Customs is enhancing its capacity to respond to chemical emergencies as first emergency responder along the US-Mexico border.

Successful Meetings Held – Joint Response Team

Planned and organized successful meetings, one in Mexico City, January 21, 2005 and another, the Joint Response Team meeting in San Diego, on February 15, 2006.



Successes and Achievements 2005

Goal 6: Improve Environmental Performance through Compliance, Enforcement, and Pollution Prevention

- **Prioritization of Border Compliance Activities**

EPA and PROFEPA have developed tools to link compliance status, enforcement history, pollutant releases, and population statistics for > 17,000 regulated facilities in the border region to assist work groups, Regional offices, and State Delegations to set priorities.

- **Transboundary Control of Hazardous Waste Movements**

Hazardous waste checking program at maquiladoras to verify compliance with safety and environmental regulations of both countries for movement of wastes across the border.

- **Border Compliance Assistance (www.bordercenter.org)**

Web-based compliance assistance resource that continues to provide timely information on hazardous waste shipments from Mexico to the United States.

- **Radio Frequency Identification Pilot (RFID)**

Pilot project underway to test use of RFID to track shipments of hazardous wastes from maquiladoras to receiving facility.

Successes and Achievements

2005

Border 2012 Communications Task Force



- Development of the Border 2012 Communications Task Force “Communications Strategy”
- Continuous improvement of the Border 2012 Web Site www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder, including the translation into Spanish of available information.
- Congressional Outreach and Guidance



2005

Border 2012 Indicator Task Force

- Completion of the Strategy for Indicator Development
 - Joint effort of the Border Indicator Task Force and the Environmental Health Work Groups
 - Currently in Printing
- Preparation of a Final Draft Indicators Report: State of the Border Region
 - Available for Public Comment until May 15, 2006.
 - Report to be finalized in Summer 2006